Mr. Jack Vincent exhibited a series of slides illustrating a day in the life of a field-collector from the Portuguese East African Expedition 1931–1932. Most of his journeying was done with a motor lorry, and the proper way to collect, skin, and keep records of specimens was clearly shown. Mr. Vincent rightly pointed out that all collectors going to a new area should first study its fauna carefully so as to know what species to look for specially, and thus to avoid killing common birds which are already well represented in Museums and are of little value. Quality, in short, should come before quantity.

Mr. Anthony Buxton showed some splendid slides and films of various marshland birds photographed at Horsey, Norfolk. These included the Bearded Tit (*Panurus biarmicus*); the Bittern (*Botaurus s. stellaris*) at its nest, showing it feeding its young with eels, and also using its powder-puff, as described by Lord William Percy (Bull. B. O. C. lii. 1932, pp. 136–138); a Redshank (*Tringa t. totanus*) leading its young from the nest to a meadow; the Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps c. cristatus*) at its nest; a Montagu's Harrier (*Circus pygargus*) rearing five young ones; and a Marsh-Harrier (*Circus æ. æruginosus*) rearing three. Young Waterhens formed the principal food for the brood of the latter.

Mr. Ralph Chislett showed a similar series of slides of the Bittern, Montagu's Harrier, and the Marsh-Harrier, also taken at Horsey, and further, a beautiful slide of the Wood-Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*) from Lapland. This showed the eggs and nest, with the bird in attendance.

The standard of the exhibits was of a high class, and a most enjoyable evening was spent.

Mr. Jack Vincent forwarded descriptions of four new species and eighteen new subspecies of birds which he had collected during the recent Portuguese East African Expedition. He also contributed preliminary observations on some groups reviewed during the course of the work of identifying the collection:—

Pachycoccyx validus canescens, subsp. nov.

The only specimen secured of a very rare genus, differing

at first glance from other known birds and races in being by no means blackish, but slate-grey on the upper parts. It is near to *Pachycoccyx validus*, and I propose to call it *P. v. canescens*.

Description.—Differs from *P. validus* in being conspicuously greyer throughout, with entire upper side washed with slaty grey and not with sooty black, and with dark grey tail lacking the brownish tinge so evident in *validus*. The white spotting is everywhere more obvious; also the spots are larger, especially on the upper tail-coverts, but this may be due to the fact that the bird is in such beautifully fresh plumage. Iris dark sepia; eyelids aurora yellow. Bill: maxilla very dark sepia; lower mandible and behind the nostrils raw sienna. Feet pale cadmium orange.

Type.—No. 1829, an adult ♂, in non-breeding condition, shot near Nhauela, Portuguese East Africa, 15·25° S., 37·25° E., at 2750 ft. altitude, on July 13, 1932. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1933.3.1.20.

Measurements of Type.—Total length in flesh 360; wing 222; tail 180; culmen from base of skull 30; tarsus 24 mm.

Indicator appelator, sp. nov.

Two Honey-guides secured during the course of the expedition are of very considerable interest, and there seems to be no other alternative than to describe them as ♂ and ♀ of a new species in that they are as unlike *Indicator minor* as they are unlike *I. exilis*.

Description.—The manner in which it differs from *I. minor* is immediately apparent both in size and colour, for there is no tendency towards a greyer head—rather it is much darker and more olive than in any material of *minor*, and uniform with the remainder of the upper parts. In size, with an adult ♂ wing of 78 mm. and an adult ♀ wing of 72 mm., it is nearer the *I. exilis* group, from which it differs, however, in having the upper parts uniform and not heavily striated, and in the pallidity of the underparts. The bill is shorter and narrower than any *minor*—in fact, of similar length to *exilis*, but more swollen.

Plumage Details.—The entire upper side is dark olive,

strongly washed with a paler colour, olive-lake, which is more prominent on the rump and upper tail-coverts. The dark centres to the feathers are evident in striations on the forehead and crown, but do not extend on to the nape. Behind each nostril is a white loral spot, the two almost meeting at the base of the culmen-ridge. Ear-coverts greyish-olive, and a darker olive streak extends from the base of the lower mandible to the ear-coverts. Throat white, with faint greyish streaks, which become darker and more prominent on the dirty whitish breast. Chin, abdomen, flanks, and lower tail-coverts white. The tail-feathers have the usual pattern, the innermost pair being blackish-brown, the remainder white, with brown tips. Wing-feathers blackish-brown, with outer webs prominently margined with olive-yellow. Iris dark sepia. Bill blackish, with pale fleshy-blue-grey basal half to the lower mandible. Feet dark new-olive-green.

Type.—No. 825, an adult ♂ in non-breeding condition, shot near Zobué, on Portuguese East Africa–Nyasaland frontier, 15·36° S., 34·27° E., at 2900 ft. altitude, on April 6, 1932, Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1933.3.1.19.

Measurements of Type.—Total length in flesh 145 ; wing 78 ; tail 53 ; culmen 10 ; tarsus 14 mm.

Measurements of ♀. Total length in flesh 141 ; wing 72 ; tail 45 ; culmen 9 ; tarsus 14 mm.

Anthus richardi lichenya, subsp. nov. ; and a review of the species in Portuguese East Africa and Nyasaland.

Many have gone into the subject of the Pipits, and a great deal of work remains to be done, but my large series of twenty-eight birds shows some interesting facts which I shall state briefly. To begin with they are divisible into the following three groups in the countries concerned :—

On the central plateau east and west of Southern Nyasaland, that is, from the Mlanje and Namuli Mountains on the one side and Angonia on the other, extending to the Zambezi Valley, the birds are rufescent, and should be classified as *A. richardi raaltenii*. In the littoral of Portuguese East Africa north of the Zambezi the birds are attributable to the

subspecies *A. r. lacuum* ; but birds from Mlanje Mountain are markedly different and, together with skins in the National Collection from the same locality, are immediately apparent as very much darker birds, for the differences are constant in all specimens from the mountains of Southern Nyasaland.

The only dark bird from a lower altitude was taken near Chilwa, within a few miles of Mlanje, and as it is the only one taken during the winter months, it may be reasonably concluded that the birds wander down from the mountain-tops to some extent during the colder weather. Specimens from the Namuli massif to the east show some affinity with this new race, but approach nearer to *lacuum*. It is a resident breeding species in the type-locality.

Description.—Similar to *A. r. raaltenii* and *A. r. lacuum*, but very much darker in every respect than either, with the upper parts more dusky, the feathers of the back having only very narrow paler margins to the dark sepia centres, and with a blackish-brown head-top showing only faint traces of the pale edges to the feathers. The underside shows the most prominent characteristic, as the abdomen has little or no trace of the reddish seen in other races, and the entire underparts are of a leaden hue which, if the time of year was consistent with such a possibility, gives the impression that the bird is discoloured by newly-burnt veld—in other words, it has the tinge of the London Sparrow. Iris dark sepia. Bill dark sepia, with yellow ochre basal two-thirds to the lower mandible. Feet pallid sunburnt flesh, more brownish on the toes. Young birds of the race show profuse striation on sides of throat and on the upper breast, a distinctly yellowish abdomen, and the rounded feathers of the upper parts have conspicuous yellowish margins, giving a generally spotted appearance.

Distribution.—Apparently confined to the mountains of Southern Nyasaland—Mlanje and the nearby Zomba and Mlosa.

Type.—No. 76, an adult ♀ collected by myself on Mlanje Mt., Nyasaland, at 6500 ft., on December 27, 1931, with sexual organs in winter condition. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1933.3.1.16.

Measurements of Type.—Total length in flesh 170 ; wing 80 ; tail 53 ; culmen from base of skull 17 ; tarsus 27 mm.

Phyllastrephus orostruthus, sp. nov.

This bird is quite unlike anything occurring in the National Collection and anything hitherto described; but it is evidently one of the *Phyllastrephus* group, and possesses the characteristically reddish tail of that genus.

Description.—Upper parts dark brownish-olive, with the head-top darker and conspicuously washed with sepia. Upper tail-coverts dark cinnamon-brown. Tail-feathers dusky liver-chestnut, merging to dark cinnamon-brown at the outer edges of the feathers. Ear-coverts brownish-olive, only slightly paler than the head-top. Lores dusky greyish-brown. A faintly paler superciliary streak extends from above the eye to the side of the neck. Chin and throat whitish, with faint yellowish centres to some of the feathers and speckled with faint greyish-brown at the sides of the chin. Breast and abdomen very pale straw-yellow, with the upper breast profusely discoloured with dark olive-green dapplings. Sides of breast and flanks dark olive-green, faintly streaked with yellowish-white. Wing-feathers dusky brown, with entire outer webs dark cinnamon-brown, only slightly paler than the edges to the tail-feathers. Lower wing-coverts dusky greyish-brown. Iris sepia. Bill black. Feet ash-grey.

Type.—No. 2052, an adult ♂ shot by myself on Namuli Mt., Portuguese East Africa, 15·21° S., 37·04° E., at 4800 ft. altitude, on August 8, 1932. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1933.3.1.5.

Measurements of Type.—Total length in flesh 186; wing 82·5; tail 69·5; culmen from base of skull 21; bill from gape 23, from nostril 12; tarsus 27·5 mm.

Phyllastrephus flavostriatus litoralis, subsp. nov.

Birds which I obtained in the coastal belt of Portuguese East Africa near Mozambique were at a very much lower altitude than has been hitherto recorded for the species. They are clearly separable from either the typical race or *P. f. tenuirostris.*

Description.—Similar to *P. f. flavostriatus* and *P. f. tenuirostris*, but the upper parts are neither so dark nor so brown as other birds taken at fairly low altitudes in Zululand, and are much paler and more brownish than the series of birds from

Nyasaland and the Namuli Mountains of Portuguese East Africa. Head-top a paler grey than either. The most conspicuous difference is seen in the underparts, which are lighter in general and, when examined in detail, especially in the white abdomen. The white is extended on to the flanks, where the suffusion of olivaceous grey so clearly marked in the other two races is almost absent. The longitudinal streaks, also, are of a brighter lemon-yellow, and there is no grey on the upper breast. These differences are defined equally in both sexes. Iris burnt umber. Bill black. Feet bluish-slate-grey.

Distribution.—Apparently confined to the coastal lowland forest of Mozambique Colony, north of the Zambezi.

Type.—No. 1370, an adult ♂, in non-breeding condition, shot near Netia, Mozambique Province, Portuguese East Africa, 14·44° S., 40·04° E., at 600 ft. altitude, on June 1, 1932. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1933.3.1.2.

Measurements of Type.—Total length in flesh 232 ; wing 99 ; tail 95 ; culmen from base of skull 25·5 ; tarsus 23 mm.

Phyllastrephus alfredi itoculo, subsp. nov. ;
and *P. alfredi* renewed as a distinct species.

Specimens of this brown-headed bird, hitherto considered a race of *Phyllastrephus flavostriatus*, collected in the same locality as *P. f. litoralis*, the new coastal race of *flavostriatus* here described, prove that *alfredi* must be a distinct species. In fact my new material from Portuguese East Africa is of interest in showing that these two species, known from many mountain forests, have each a coastal race found in northern Mozambique, in each case distinguishable by their paler coloration.

Description.—Similar to *P. alfredi*, but head-top paler brown and more olivaceous, uniform with rest of upper parts. Tail redder or more cinnamon-brown. Underparts absolutely pallid when compared with *alfredi* ; the throat white, bordered by prominent greyish-brown malar streaks ; rest of underparts creamy white, on which the pale yellow streaks are scarcely visible, only slightly darker and more yellowish on the lower tail-coverts. The sides of the breast and flanks are darker and lightly washed with brownish-olive. The differences are

similar in both sexes. Iris naples' yellow. Bill black, with paler streak along the cutting-edges. Feet pale fleshy mineral grey. Immature birds may be distinguished by the colour of the iris, which is mineral grey.

Distribution.—Apparently confined to coastal lowland forest of Mozambique Colony, north of Zambezi.

Type.—No. 1376, an adult ♂, in non-breeding condition, shot near Netia, Mozambique Province, Portuguese East Africa, 14·44° S., 40·04° E., at 600 ft. altitude, on June 2, 1932. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1933.3.1.1.

Co-type.—No. 1374, adult ♀, shot simultaneously with the type.

Measurements of Type.—Total length in flesh 231 ; wing 96 ; tail 93 ; culmen from base of skull 24 ; tarsus 22·5 mm.

Measurements of Co-type.—Total length in flesh 201 ; wing 84 ; tail 85 ; culmen from base of skull 21·5 ; tarsus 22 mm.

Hyliota australis inornata, subsp. nov.

Description.—Resembles *H. a. australis*, but has the underparts paler, more whitish, and with less of the buffish wash, and the upper parts show a tendency towards sooty black rather than dark umber-brown ; but the chief characteristic, constant in the series, is found in the tail-feathers. The two outermost pairs of rectrices in the typical *australis* are black, with only a faint trace of white on the outer margins of the feathers ; but in this new race the outermost pair of rectrices are white, and only black at the extreme tips and bases to the feathers ; the next pair are black, with white basal two-thirds to the outer webs, and there is a white margin to the outer webs of the next two pairs. Iris dark sepia. Bill black, with basal two-thirds of the lower mandible pale blue-grey. Feet dark slate. The increased white in the tail is evident in both sexes.

Type.—No. 759, an adult ♂ shot by myself near Zobué, Tete Province, Portuguese East Africa, 15·47° S., 34·19° E., at 2200 ft. altitude, on April 1, 1932. Sexual organs in winter condition. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1933.3.1.3.

Co-type.—No. 760, an adult ♀ shot side by side, and apparent pair, with the type.

Measurements of Type.—Total length in flesh 130 ; wing 72 ; tail 46 ; culmen from base of skull 14 ; tarsus 18 mm.

Measurements of Co-type.—Total length in flesh 126 ; wing 67·5 ; tail 40 ; culmen from base of skull 14 ; tarsus 18 mm.

Remarks.—Three of the series were shot on the Nyasaland side of the frontier of Portuguese East Africa, some 12 miles from the others and the type, and constitute the first record of the species for Nyasaland. In all seven adults were obtained.

Seicercus ruficapilla quelimanensis, subsp. nov.

Description.—Resembles *S. r. ruficapilla* and *S. r. johnstoni*, but has the yellow of the throat appreciably paler than either, more restricted than *ruficapilla* and less restricted than *johnstoni*, extending slightly on to the chest and culminating in a very distinctive V-shaped apex. The centre of the abdomen is pure white, absolutely lacking any wash of the yellowish evident in all other races ; the white is restricted also to the abdomen, and separated from the yellow throat by the broad grey band of the upper breast. The crown is intermediate in hue between the dark mustard shade of the typical race and the much darker sienna-brown of *S. r. johnstoni*.

An even more conspicuous characteristic is the slate-grey back and rump, lacking any trace of the darker brownish or greenish wash ; in fact the brown of the head-top, in the case of the Portuguese East African birds, culminates in an abrupt and clearly defined line on the nape, and does not merge into the grey of the back as is shown in all the recorded races. The wing and tail edging is also of a much brighter green. Iris dark sepia. Maxilla dark sepia ; lower mandible yellow-ochre. Feet yellowish-blue-grey. Soles raw umber.

Type.—No. 1912, an adult ♂ shot on Namuli Mt., Quelimane Province, Portuguese East Africa, 15·21° S., 37·04° E., at 5600 ft. altitude, on July 25, 1932. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1933.3.1.14.

Co-type.—No. 1913, an adult ♀ shot side by side, and apparent pair, with the type. Sexual organs of both birds near winter condition.

Measurements of Type.—Total length in flesh 119 ; wing 58 ; tail 44 ; culmen 9 ; tarsus 20 mm.

Measurements of Co-type.—Total length in flesh 111 ; wing 52 ; tail 40 ; culmen 9 ; tarsus 20 mm.

Remarks.—This is yet another new race from the principal massif of northern Portuguese East Africa. The differences given in the above description are very marked, and are constant in the four adults secured, all from Namuli Mountain, and the remaining two from altitudes of 4600 and 5800 ft.

Erythrocercus livingstonei monapo, subsp. nov.

Having obtained an excellent series of nineteen specimens of this bird, which has been hitherto considered rare, and which I collected in many widely separated localities in Portuguese East Africa and Nyasaland, I have been able to review the two species *E. livingstonei* and *E. thomsoni*, and have proved that the latter is no longer a distinct species, but only a race of the Zambezi bird *E. livingstonei* ; for, by collecting nine birds of *thomsoni*, represented in the National Collection by only two specimens from the Rovuma, I was able to extend its range southwards to the Lurio River ; shortly after this, and a little further to the south, in the lower valley of the Monapo River, I secured birds of an intermediate race showing the grey head of the Zambezi *livingstonei*, but with some of the yellow throat and the heavily spotted tail of *thomsoni*. Further specimens of the true *livingstonei* were later secured in the Zambezi Valley.

Description.—Generally resembles *E. livingstonei* and *E. thomsoni*, but cannot be confused with the latter by reason of its greyish head-top, defined from the greenish back, and by its whitish throat, not so clearly white as in *livingstonei*, but rather with the chin white and the throat washed with yellowish. It is immediately separable in turn from *livingstonei* not only from the throat, but more clearly from the tail-spots, which are as large, dark, and conspicuous as in *thomsoni*. The bare parts are similar—irides dark sepia. Bill white, with pale permanent brown culmen. Tarsi roman sepia. Toes raw umber.

Distribution of the three races is as follows :—

E. livingstonei livingstonei.—The lower valleys of the Zambezi and Shiré Rivers.

E. livingstonei monapo.—The lower valley of the Monapo River near Mozambique.

E. livingstonei thomsoni.—The Rovuma River valley in Tanganyika Territory, extending down through the coastal lowland of Mozambique Colony as far as the Lurio River.

Type.—No. 1231, an adult ♂ near non-breeding condition, shot near Iamorrimo, Mozambique Province, Portuguese East Africa, 14·55° S., 40·25° E., at 400 ft. altitude, on May 25, 1932. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1933.3.1.15.

Measurements of Type.—Total length in flesh 116 ; wing 49 ; tail 46 ; culmen from base of skull 11·5 ; tarsus 17 mm.

Alethe choloensis namuli, subsp. nov.

Two specimens secured of a new race of a species only known from Cholo Mountain, in Southern Nyasaland, both adult males in non-breeding condition, and shot in close company. Stomach-contents—driver-ants and small beetles. Specimens of the typical race were obtained also, and the new race is named as above in order to perpetuate my exploration of the Namuli Mountains, where many rare birds were obtained.

Description.—Resembles *A. c. choloensis* very closely, but has a conspicuous difference in the increased paleness of the underparts. The clear white throat is similarly defined from the dirty white upper breast, but the entire abdomen is clear white, and the dirty or greyish coloration is confined to the flanks. Another character, which I take as being a good one, is found in the lesser amount of white on the outer web of the outermost rectrices. Irides sepia. Bill black. Feet ashen pallid flesh.

Distribution.—Apparently confined to the Namuli massif.

Type.—No. 1906, an adult ♂ from Namuli Mountain, Quelimane Province, Portuguese East Africa, 15·21° S., 37·04° E., shot by myself, at 5600 ft. altitude, on July 25, 1932. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1933.3.1.3.

Measurements of Type.—Total length in flesh 193 ; wing 100 ; tail 69 ; culmen from base of skull 20 ; tarsus 31 mm.

Alethe anomala gurué, subsp. nov.

Like the *Alethe choloensis* described, another example of differing races of a species occurring on " island " mountains—a counterpart of the conditions existing in northern Tanganyika Territory.

It is obvious that such localized forms should possess names of geographical significance, and Gurué is the name of the Portuguese Administrative Post at the base of Namuli Mt.

Five specimens were secured, 3 ♂♂, 1 ♀, and 1 immature ♀, all in non-breeding condition.

Description.—Resembles *A. a. anomala*, especially as to the upper parts, but darker on the head-top and on the upper side as a whole. The back of the typical race is as described in 'The Ibis,' 1893—uniform brown, with a distinctly rufous shade. This is lacking in the Portuguese birds, which possess a distinct dark greenish shade. The darker coloration is reflected in the less rufescent tail and the more blackish primary wing-feathers. Irides dark sepia. Bill black. Feet greyish permanent brown.

Distribution.—Apparently confined to the Namuli Mts.

Type.—No. 1940, an adult ♂, shot by myself on Namuli Mt., 15·21° S., 37·04° E., Quelimane Province, Portuguese East Africa, at 5600 ft. altitude, on July 28, 1932. Organs in non-breeding condition. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1933.3.1.4.

Co-type.—No. 1939. Paired with type and an adult ♀.

Measurements of Type.—Total length in flesh 167 ; wing 77·5 ; tail 59 ; culmen from base of skull 18 ; tarsus 30 mm.

Measurements of Co-type.—Total length in flesh 163 ; wing 75·5 ; tail 57 ; culmen from base of skull 18 ; tarsus 29 mm.

A Review of the East African Races of Heliolais erythroptera.

A good series of the species which I collected at various localities throughout northern Portuguese East Africa showed that none of my birds was attributable to the race *H. e. kirbyi*, and I was led to make further investigations, with the following results :—

The type of *rhodoptera*, described by Shelley in 'The Ibis,' 1880, p. 333, is in the British Museum, and on comparing it with Haagner's description of *kirbyi*, from the Quelimane Province of Portuguese East Africa, I am forced to conclude that *rhodoptera* was not considered when *kirbyi* was described. Further comparisons of both with my specimens, also from the Quelimane Province of Portuguese East Africa, show that *kirbyi* must be a synonym.

As for van Someren's *kavirondensis*, described in Nov. Zool. xxix. p. 218, I can only add that, in the absence of any birds from his type-locality, the description he gives is applicable in every respect to any East African bird, whether from Tanganyika or Southern Rhodesia, which are all "quite different from typical *H. erythroptera*" of the Gold Coast, and also have the "bill brown, not black." Bill coloration is not a determining factor, as there seems to be considerable seasonal change in its intensity.

Therefore I consider that the following races should be recognized :—

H. erythroptera erythroptera.—Gold Coast to N. Nigeria and Togoland.

H. erythroptera jodoptera.—Cameroon highlands east along Uele to Bahr el Ghazal.

H. erythroptera major.—S.W. Abyssinia.

H. erythroptera rhodoptera.—Eastern tropical Africa from south-east of Lake Victoria, through Tanganyika, to Nyasaland, the Zambezi Valley, Mashonaland, and the Gaza district of southern Mozambique.

Alongside the last-named, the new species next described is found in the littoral of northern Mozambique.

Heliolais castanopsis, sp. nov.

Nine specimens were obtained, all consistently unlike the grey-headed *H. erythroptera rhodoptera*, which is found to the south, to the west, and to the north of them, and the dissimilarity is so great that I propose to create a new species, as above.

Description.—Differs from *H. erythroptera rhodoptera* in the entire absence of any greyish coloration in the uniformity of the upper parts, which are of a strange reddish-brown hue, between auburn and chestnut, which merges to true chestnut-brown on the upper tail-coverts. In general coloration it resembles the Abyssinian *H. erythroptera major*, but is unlike that bird in having a deep suffusion of cinnamon on the abdomen and flanks and pale grey lores. Also differs in other respects, such as having a bill of 18 mm. against 21 mm. Iris dark mars yellow. Bill ashen whitish, with pale roman sepia

culmen and terminal half to lower mandible. Feet yellowish or roman ochre.

Type.—No. 1734, an adult ♂ shot by myself at the mouth of the Lurio River, Portuguese East Africa, 13·30° S., 40·30° E., at sea-level, on June 29, 1932. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1933.3.1.9. Sexual organs down to winter condition, but adults still accompanied by immature birds.

Measurements of Type.—Total length in flesh 149 ; wing 54 ; tail 67 ; culmen from base of skull 18 ; tarsus 21 mm.

Apalis melanocephala tenebricosa, subsp. nov.

Thirteen specimens, all in breeding condition, of this very distinct race were obtained from the "island" mountain of Namuli, in northern Portuguese East Africa.

Description.—Resembles *A. m. melanocephala* of Tanganyika, but differs in the very much more saturated coloration of the upper parts, which, instead of ash-grey, are jet-black and uniform throughout. The females are similar to *melanocephala*, thus there is a conspicuous difference between the sexes in this race. The entire underparts are also more dusky, and have a sooty wash. Iris dark mars orange. Bill black. Feet brown ochre.

Type.—No. 2051, an adult ♂ shot by myself on Namuli Mt., Quelimane Province, Portuguese East Africa, 15·21° S., 37·04° E., at 4800 ft., on August 8, 1932. Testes in full breeding condition. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1933.3.1.10.

Measurements of Type.—Total length in flesh 157 ; wing 52 ; tail 77 ; culmen from base of skull 13 ; tarsus 18 mm.

Remarks.—These birds were confined to mountain forest, and I could not trace them below 4600 ft. altitude, whereas the typical race has been obtained down as far as 1150 ft.

Apalis melanocephala fuliginosa, subsp. nov.

Yet another "island" mountain race of this attractive little forest Warbler.

Description.—Generally resembles *A. m. melanocephala* and the other new race *tenebricosa*. It is dusky on the underparts in a similar manner to the latter, but differs from both on the upper parts. The head-top and hind neck are as black

as the entire back of *A. m. tenebricosa*, and sharply defined from the grey back. Iris dark mars orange. Bill black. Feet pale burnt umber.

Type.—No. 2135, an adult ♂ shot by myself, together with another male with which it was fighting, on Cholo Mt., Nyasaland, 16·02° S., 35·03° E., at 4200 ft. altitude, on September 2, 1932. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1933.3.1.11.

Measurements of Type.—Total length in flesh 150 ; wing 51 ; tail 69 ; culmen from base of skull 14 ; tarsus 18 mm.

Remarks.—All the specimens were obtained in September, and had sexual organs not yet in breeding condition, although the birds appeared to be pairing at the time.

Apalis lynesi, sp. nov.

I am unable to find any birds which may be said to approach this obviously new *Apalis*, but there are two species with which it might be briefly compared, namely, *A. binotata* and *A. jacksoni*. It is only like *binotata* of Ruwenzori in having the black of the throat continued on to the chest, for the abdomen is deep yellow instead of white, and the head-top is blue-grey instead of umber-brown. It is like *jacksoni* of Elgon as to the colour of the upper side only, for the black of the throat is extended further on to the chest than in that species, and the moustache stripes and the white in tail and wings are absent. I propose to call this bird *Apalis lynesi*, as a compliment to Rear-Admiral Lynes, C.B., but for whose kind introduction to the British Museum authorities the Portuguese East African expedition would not have been carried out by myself.

Description.—Forehead, crown, ear-coverts, hind-head, nape, and mantle bluish-slate-grey. Remainder of upper parts olive-green. Tail-feathers slate-grey with blackish centres, the outermost pair with entire terminal half white, and the next pair showing some white on terminal one-third of inner web. Lores, chin, throat, and chest black, not ending in a distinct line, but speckled with olive-green and yellow at the base, fusing irregularly with the primrose-yellow of the breast and abdomen. Sides of breast, flanks, and lower tail-coverts yellowish-olive-green. Under wing-coverts lead-grey, tipped

darker, and with a faint wash of yellow. Primaries and wing-coverts blackish, with narrow margins of olive-green to the outer webs of the feathers. Iris pale permanent yellow. Bill black. Feet brown ochre. Many specimens show traces of the slate-grey head-colouring in the black of the throat, and some have the black chin and throat almost surrounded by a ring of slate-grey ; this is undoubtedly a sign of immaturity.

Type.—No. 2025, an adult ♂ shot in the forest on Namuli Mt., Quelimane Province, Portuguese East Africa, 15·21° S., 37·04° E., at 5000 ft. altitude, on August 5, 1932. Testes starting up to breed. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1933.3.1.12.

Measurements of Type.—Total length in flesh 138 ; wing 54 ; tail 53 ; culmen 12·5 ; tarsus 19·5 mm.

Co-type.—No. 2024, adult ♀ shot simultaneously, and apparent pair, with type.

Measurements of Co-type.—Total length in flesh 124 ; wing 51 ; tail 45 ; culmen 12·5 ; tarsus 19·5 mm.

I was able to secure a series of eleven specimens between altitudes of 4500 ft. and 6200 ft., mostly with sexual organs in non-breeding condition. Stomach contents : ants and small Coleoptera.

Average measurements of ♂♂.—Total length in flesh 132 ; wing 53±1 ; tail 51±2 ; culmen 13 ; tarsus 19·5 mm.

Average measurements of ♀♀.—Total length in flesh 129 ; wing 51±1 ; tail 47±2 ; culmen 13 ; tarsus 19·5 mm.

Ptyonoprogne rufigula fusciventris, subsp. nov.

Birds from northern Portuguese East Africa and Nyasaland are clearly separable from the typical *P. rufigula*, although just as much smaller than the southern species, *P. fuligula*.

Description.—Resembles *P. r. rufigula*, but a shade darker than any of that race on the upper side. The most conspicuous dissimilarity, however, is seen on the underparts, which lack all the warm colouring, in that the tawny buff of the chin and throat ceases on the lower throat, leaving the entire breast and abdomen sooty brown. Rear-Admiral Lynes has very kindly compared his own series from Tanganyika Territory with my birds, and finds that they are similarly applicable to this new race.

Type.—No. 2015, an adult ♂, in full breeding condition, shot by myself on Namuli Mt., Quelimane Province, Colony of Mozambique, 15·21° S., 37·04° E., at 6200 ft. altitude, on August 4, 1932. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1933.3.1.21.

Measurements of Type.—Total length in flesh 134; wing 112; tail 45; culmen from base of skull 11; tarsus 10 mm.

Cinnyris neergardi
(an abolished species renewed).

The bird in the National Collection collected by Capt. C. H. B. Grant at Coguno, in southern Portuguese East Africa, and described by him (Bull. B. O. C. xxi. 1908, p. 93), is stated in W. L. Sclater's 'Systema Avium Æthiopicarum' as being *C. shelleyi neergardi*; but it cannot be a race of *shelleyi*, as it has conspicuous yellow pectoral tufts. The typical *shelleyi* has been known hitherto only from the type; but I have brought back a long series of the species from the colony of Mozambique, and it proves that the pectoral tufts never occur. Then again, the specimens of *neergardi* have a very small bill when compared with *shelleyi*, and seem to be nearest to *C. reichenowi*; but they differ in turn from that species in having the distinctive blackish-brown abdomen.

We cannot have a race of *reichenowi* so far to the south of any known representative of that species, for it would leave out the whole of East Africa, and I found no evidence of a bird approaching *reichenowi* in northern Mozambique. I would venture to suggest, therefore, that *neergardi* should remain a distinct species, as originally described.

Cinnyris chalybeus.
Review of species as affecting Portuguese East Africa, with description of three new subspecies.

The long series of *C. chalybeus* collected in northern Mozambique, and from three distinctly separable localities, raises some points of interest, the full discussion of which must necessarily entail a considerable amount of detail. Turning first of all to one Tanganyika race, it is found that *C. manoensis* was described according to size, and Reichenow (Ornith. Monatsber. xv. 1907, p. 200) says :—"Like *chalybeus*, but wing and bill larger, W. 60, B. 22." On mere measurement it would

seem to be a race of doubtful identity, as Rhodesian birds of *C. c. subalaris* were in accordance with the dimensions given. But it does not appear to concern the Portuguese East African birds, and will have to stand until further material is forthcoming from the type-locality.

Dealing next with the other Tanganyika race, *C. gertrudis*, and the more western, *C. ludovicensis*, it is obvious that both may be left as they stand, and do not affect my Portuguese East African birds, of which sixteen males average, wing 60–64; bill 21–22 mm., for *gertrudis* has a much smaller wing and bill—wing 53; bill 17 mm.—and *ludovicensis* has a wing similar to *subalaris*, but again a smaller bill—wing 60–62; bill 17–18 mm.

Now, turning to the race *C. c. subalaris*, it is found that the southern Rhodesian and southern Mozambique birds, with wing 61–64 and bill 21 mm., coincide with my birds north of the Zambezi; but they, in turn, are consistently different from the South African birds nearer to the type-locality in Pondoland, which have a much smaller wing of 55–56 mm. It is obvious, therefore, that *subalaris*, as it stands at present, must be subdivided.

Finding that a definition of the races by measurement leads to no conclusive result, the question of colour is considered. A long series of *subalaris* in the British Museum Collection was compared with the birds of northern Mozambique, and it was found that they are immediately separable, as regards the coloration of the abdomen, into four distinct groups. The differences are very clearly apparent and constant throughout each series, only those birds at the extremes of the distributions of the four " water-tight compartments " showing some evidence of intergradation.

To summarize my investigations I shall enumerate the races in turn, briefly stating the respective characteristics and distribution.

1. Cinnyris chalybeus subalaris.

Has a large culmen and a small wing. Average measurements: wing 55–56; bill 21 mm. Pondoland, Natal, and Zululand, merging into 2. in Transvaal.

2. **Cinnyris chalybeus bractiatus,** subsp. nov.

Has a large culmen and a large wing. Average measurements ; wing 61–64 ; bill 21 mm. This has become distinctly paler on the abdomen than *subalaris*.

Description.—Differs from *subalaris* in the very much paler and greyish abdomen.

Distribution.—Mashonaland and the Gaza district of southern Portuguese East Africa.

Type.—An adult ♂ collected by Sowerby at Fort Chiquaqua, Mashonaland, on August 30, 1877. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1898.5.2.32.

Measurements of Type.—Total length in skin 133 ; wing 64·5 ; tail 43·5 ; bill, exposed culmen, 21 ; tarsus 17 mm.

3. **Cinnyris chalybeus zonarius,** subsp. nov.

Similar to *bractiatus* in measurements. Average of my six adult males : wing 61–64 ; bill 21–21·5 mm., but absolutely different in the coloration of the underparts, having the abdomen much paler greyish-white, conspicuously washed with yellowish-olive.

Distribution.—Portuguese Angonia and the Kirk Mts., west of Southern Nyasaland.

Type.—An adult ♂ in partial breeding condition shot by myself near Zobué, Portuguese East African–Nyasaland frontier, 15·36° S., 34·27° E., at 2900 ft. altitude, on April 10, 1932. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1933.3.1.7.

Measurements of Type.—Total length in flesh 133 ; wing 62 ; tail 43 ; bill 21 ; tarsus 17·5 mm.

4. **Cinnyris chalybeus namwera,** subsp. nov.

Similar to *bractiatus* and *zonarius* in measurement. Average of my ten adult males : wing 60–64 ; bill 21–22 mm., but distinct again in colour, being still paler grey on the abdomen, almost white, with no trace of the yellowish wash.

Distribution.—The highlands east of Lake Nyasa and Southern Nyasaland.

Type.—An adult ♂ in non-breeding condition, shot by myself on Mangoche Mt., Nyasaland, 14·22° S., 35·32° E., at 3700 ft. altitude, on May 6, 1932. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1933.3.1.8.

Measurements of Type.—Total length in flesh 132 ; wing 65 ; tail 45 ; bill 21 ; tarsus 17·5 mm.

Ploceus aureoflavus pallidiceps, subsp. nov.

This bird is quite unlike *P. subaureus*, which is found some considerable distance to the south, in its brighter coloration, generally smaller size, and somewhat differently shaped bill. It is evident that it is a southern representative of *P. a. aureoflavus* of Zanzibar, although I do not altogether dismiss the possibility of its being proved later that the bird may show some intergradation between the two species *P. subaureus* and *P. aureoflavus*. [See also Smith, Ill. Zool. S. Afr., Aves, text to plate 30, 1839.]

Description.—Generally resembles *P. aureoflavus*, but adult males differ in the complete absence of any of the saffron coloration so characteristic of the forehead and throat in the typical race. The chin and throat of this new bird are uniform with the pale canary-yellow underparts, and there is more evidence of greenish on the back ; also it is considerably larger. Iris orange-vermilion. Bill black. Feet roman ochre.

Type.—No. 307, an adult ♂ in full breeding condition from a nesting colony of about twenty pairs at Mocuba, Quelimane Province, Portuguese East Africa, 16·52° S., 36·56° E., at 700 ft. altitude, on February 1, 1932. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1933.3.1.17.

Measurements of Type.—Total length in flesh 148 ; wing 75 ; tail 43 ; culmen 18 ; tarsus 21 mm.

Remarks.—Although this bird was common in the type-locality, I did not realize its significance, and only two specimens were secured. Further north, however, as far as the Lurio River mouth, three more males and one female were secured. I have classified all these birds as similar, and make the male in breeding plumage the type. I do not think that the Lurio birds, although so much further to the north, are separable on such scanty material, more especially as they were taken in mid-winter, and the fact that they are more greenish on the back than the type is no doubt due to a seasonal change, in that the birds are in fresh plumage. Also the upper parts of the type show some signs of wear.

It is interesting to note that the bill in winter is no longer black, but is whitish-brown, with a darker culmen.

Amadina fasciata albitorquata, subsp. nov.

The specimen secured constitutes the first record of the species for Nyasaland, and is not attributable to any other southern African race.

Description.—Differs from *A. f. fasciata* or *A. f. alexanderi* in three marked respects—(1) in having a distinct white band below the scarlet of the throat extended round behind the ear-coverts, although not on to the hind-neck; (2) in the markedly smaller bill; and (3) in the almost entire absence, or only the barest indication, of a brown abdominal patch. The only bird in the National Collection possessing this deficiency is the southernmost recorded bird of *alexanderi* from Dar-es-Salaam; but this bird, although differing from others of the race in that respect, is akin to the others, and differs materially from my bird in the differently shaped bill.

Differs from *A. meridionalis* in the paler back, which is almost lacking in black cross-bands, in the under tail-coverts, which are also paler and buffish-cream, and in the unmarked creamy white abdomen. Irides dark raw umber. Bill pale bluish-grey, with darker slate-grey culmen. Feet whitish-brown.

Type.—No. 970, an adult ♂ shot at Fort Johnston, Nyasaland, at the south end of Lake Nyasa, at 1700 ft. altitude, on May 1, 1932, with testes well started up to breed. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1933.3.1.18.

Measurements of Type.—Total length in flesh 125; wing 62; tail 33; bill from base of culmen 11; tarsus 13·5 mm.

Cryptospiza reichenowi sanguinolenta, subsp. nov.

Five specimens of this species were collected in Southern Nyasaland and the nearby mountains of Portuguese East Africa, and they have been compared with twelve *C. r. ocularis* from Ruwenzori, four *C. r. reichenowi* from West Africa, and nine birds from Tanganyika. Although the first two groups stand, the remaining fourteen birds are entirely different.

The Tanganyika birds appear inseparable from mine,

although there is a slight general difference which may be proved of more importance by further material; nevertheless, the dissimilarity between them and the two known races is only too obvious.

Description (compared with *C. r. reichenowi* and *C. r. ocularis*).—Shows a greenish-grey underside, paler and greyish-olive on chin, little contrast in the throat and abdomen, and only slightly darker on the lower tail-coverts; whereas *ocularis* has the underside of a general buffy olive, with the chin and throat paler than, but more like, *reichenowi*, which has the entire underparts brownish-olive, especially dark on the abdomen and more buffish on chin and throat. In short, *reichenowi* is a dark brownish-breasted bird, *ocularis* buffish, and *sanguinolenta* greyish-green.

Distributions.—

C. r. reichenowi.—Mountains of Fernando Po and Cameroon.

C. r. ocularis.—Ruwenzori Mts.

C. r. sanguinolenta.—Mountains of Tanganyika Territory and Portuguese East Africa north of the Zambezi, also Mlanje Mts. of Nyasaland.

The two specimens from Mlanje Mt. constitute the first record of the species for Nyasaland.

Type.—No. 129, an adult ♂ shot by myself on Mlanje Mt., Southern Nyasaland, at 6300 ft. altitude, on January 3, 1932, in partial breeding condition. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1933.3.1.6.

Measurements of Type.—Total length in flesh 120; wing 53; tail 40; culmen 11; tarsus 18 mm.

Co-type.—No. 128, an adult ♀, paired with the type.

Measurements of Co-type.—Total length in flesh 121; wing 53; tail 37; culmen 11; tarsus 18.

Mr. Jack Vincent also forwarded the following remarks on

Lybius zombæ;

an interesting example of a recent change in the coloration of an East African species.

During the course of the recent Portuguese East African Expedition I collected a series of nineteen examples of *Lybius zombæ*, and comparison with existing specimens in the National Collection revealed some interesting theoretical possibilities.

The original specimens, with which this comparison has been made, consist of eighteen adult birds collected by Sharpe, Whyte, and Kirk in Nyasaland at varying dates from about 1870 to 1902. Nine of these skins from the type-locality, Zomba in Nyasaland, have the feathers of the chin, throat, and forehead of a pale pinkish colour, and they are of normal structure ; seven skins have similar feathering, but are whitish, only tinged with pink ; whilst the remaining two have entirely white feathers, which appear shorter and more spiny. All my birds are similar to these last two, but closer inspection of the apparently smaller feathers gives one the impression of wear. The possibility of their being worn, however, is inconsistent with the generally fresh plumage of many specimens, and, although the birds were collected at varying dates throughout the year, this " worn " character of the throat-feathers remains consistent. Dr. P. R. Lowe has been kind enough to examine both types of feathers under the microscope and, although the subject has not been yet fully investigated, it does not appear as though there is any structural change, although the entire series shows that the barbules are " worn " or lacking from the terminal portion of the barbs of the feathers. It is fairly obvious that some very interesting change is taking place, and one which is reflected in the coloration.

The species is surrounded in its range by the red-throated *Lybius torquatus*, and when the last specimens were collected, thirty to forty years ago, we see that the larger proportion of Southern Nyasaland birds seemed to show some of the character of *torquatus* in their pinkish throat-coloration. But this seems to be entirely absent now, as my birds, many from the type-locality, are colourless as to the white feathering of the head and neck. It is interesting to note that F. Stresemann and H. Grote, on p. 374 of the Report on the International Ornithological Congress at Copenhagen, 1926, mention this species, and suggest that the darker headed birds would predominate, and it seems as though this is precisely what has occurred within the short space of three or four decades.

I found the species to be extremely common at a spot within 20 miles of Zomba, and saw many scores of the birds

during the course of my stay ; I was invariably able to watch them at close quarters, and can confidently assert that I saw no single individual showing any trace of the pinkish coloration. Two races of the species have been recognized—typical *zombœ*, characterized by the throat-feathers being pinkish, and *albigularis*, distinguished by their being entirely white. But it seems evident that two races cannot stand any longer, as the pink form has been obviously dominated throughout the entire distribution of the species. Therefore I have classified all my specimens merely as *Lybius zombœ*, and the present relationship between this species and the red-headed *Lybius torquatus* remains to be determined by someone cleverer than myself, whose interest may be aroused by my preliminary observations.

Col. R. Meinertzhagen sent the following descriptions of two new forms of *Ammomanes deserti* from the Ahaggar Plateau, Central Sahara :—

Ammomanes deserti bensoni, subsp. nov.

Description.—Males, in nearly every case, darker than the females, thereby differing from all known forms of this species. The male is much darker than any other African form, approaching the dark *A. d. annœ* from the Arabian Desert. The female is paler than the male and pinker, approaching *A. d. janeti* from lower elevations in the Ahaggar Plateau.

Measurements.—Bill as large as in *A. d. mya*. Wings varying from 97 mm. in females to 107 mm. in males. Eighteen examined.

Distribution.—Higher elevations in the Ahaggar Plateau, and seldom found off the black, desert-varnished, pebbly desert between 6500 and 7900 feet.

Type.—In the Tring Collection at Tring. ♂, Tamsnigat, 6800 feet, Ahaggar Plateau, Sahara, 25. ii. 31.

Ammomanes deserti janeti, subsp. nov.

Description.—Both sexes alike, and resembling the female of *A. d. bensoni*. Bill as large as in *A. d. mya*, but the plumage

is not so pink, either above or below. Generally a darker bird than *mya* above, and stands intermediate between it and *A. d. bensoni*.

Measurements.—Wings varying from 96 mm. in females to 106 mm. in males. Seventeen examined.

Distribution.—At lower elevations (2500 to 5200 feet) in the Ahaggar Plateau; collected at Tamanrasset, Arak, and In Eker.

Type.—In the Tring Collection at Tring. ♀, Oued Tamanrasset, 5200 feet, Ahaggar Plateau, Sahara, 23. ii. 31.

Remarks.—Neither of these forms has anything to do with *A. d. geyri* or *A. d. payni*, both of which are much pinker. Ahaggar Plateau birds show scarcely a trace of pink tinge.

Mr. David Bannerman sent the following communication in regard to the Hairy-breasted Toothbills (*Tricholæma*) in West Africa :—

The group of Barbets which are listed in the 'Systema Avium Æthiopicarum' (1924, p. 274, and Appendix, p. 859) under the specific name *Tricholæma hirsutum* have engaged the attention of various ornithologists from time to time. I reviewed the group myself in Rev. Zool. Africaine, xii. 4, 1924, pp. 482–486, wherein I corrected a former review which I had contributed to the latter journal when writing on the birds of Southern Nigeria. In both reviews I treated all the forms *chapini*, *ansorgii*, *hybridum*, *flavipunctata*, and *angolense* as subspecies of *Tricholæma hirsutum hirsutum*. This arrangement was adhered to by Mr. W. L. Sclater in the 'Systema Avium Æthiopicarum.' When writing on these birds again, for the third volume of my 'Birds of Tropical West Africa,' I had occasion to consult the latest review, including a Key to the races of *Tricholæma hirsutum*, given by Mr. G. L. Bates in 'The Ibis,' 1931, pp. 268–269. As I find myself in disagreement with Mr. Bates, I wish to take this opportunity of stating on what grounds I am opposed to his conclusions.

In the first place Mr. Bates states in his Key that in *T. h. hirsutum* the throat is black in the male, mottled or streaked in the female. In my opinion the outstanding

difference between the male and female of *T. hirsutum* is that the spots on the upper surface and the margins of the secondaries and primary coverts are golden-yellow instead of pale greenish lemon-yellow. This is a perfectly constant character which can be seen throughout all the forms hitherto included as races of *T. hirsutum*. The birds which Mr. Bates believed to be females are, in my opinion, examples of the race which I named *chapini*, with streaked whitish throats. There was every excuse for believing these birds to belong to the same species as the black-throated examples of *hirsutum*, as they were shot in the same area; in fact I had myself made the error in 1924 of considering them immature birds. Mr. Bates overlooked one very important point, however, the obvious difference in the colour of the spots of the males and the females, as pointed out above. As these birds occur side by side, we must now treat *Tricholæma hirsutum*, the only black-throated bird, as a species without any subspecies, and unite all the streaky-throated races—*flavipunctata*, *chapini*, *ansorgii*, and *angolense*—as subspecies of the first-named form, i. e., *Tricholæma flavipunctata* of Verreaux (1855). Neumann's *hybridum* is so obviously a hybrid occurring in the Niger Delta, where the ranges of *flavipunctata* and *chapini* meet, that I consider it cannot be given the status of a subspecies, and therefore discard the name.

One other point I would mention. Under his notes (*loc. cit.* p. 268) on *T. flavipunctata* Mr. Bates states that there is no difference between the sexes which can be seen easily. The fact that in the male the spots are pale lemon-yellow and in the female are golden, and obviously always larger, is a very important sexual distinction which, as I have already stated, is carried right through the group, and is even apparent in the curious race *angolense*.

During my examination of these birds I have had the great advantage of Capt. C. H. B. Grant's assistance, and we have come to the opinions expressed above jointly. With these amendments I hold to the review of these forms given by myself in 1924, both concerning the distinctions in sex and the range of the species and races.

Mr. Gregory M. Mathews sent the following description of a new genus of Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel :—

Tethysia, gen. nov.

Description.—Tarsus longer than the middle toe and claw. Tail not forked for more than about 12 mm.

Type.—*Procellaria tethys* Bonaparte, Compt. Rend. xxxviii. 1854, p. 662, et auct.

Remarks.—This new genus, in the proportion of tarsus to middle toe and claw, fits in the key with *Halocyptena* and *Thalassidroma*, and does not belong to *Oceanodroma* and *Cymochorea*.

Correction.

Capt. C. H. B. Grant sent the following correction :—

In the ' Bulletin ' (*antea*, li. 1931, p. 127, line 30) " On the Kondoa to Iodma main road " should read " On the Kondoa to Dodoma main road."

NOTICES.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, April 12, 1933, at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1. The Dinner at 7 p.m.

Members intending to dine are requested to inform the Hon. Secretary, Mr. C. W. Mackworth-Praed, 51 Onslow Gardens, London, S.W. 7.

Members who wish to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club must give notice to the Editor, Dr. G. Carmichael Low, 86 Brook Street, Grosvenor Square, W. 1, as soon as possible. The titles of their contributions will then appear on the Agenda published before each Meeting. All MSS. for publication in the 'Bulletin' must be given to the Editor before or at the Meeting.

Agenda.

1. Mr. Jack Vincent will read a paper on an Expedition to Portuguese East Africa in 1931–1932, and will exhibit slides and a series of rare and new birds collected there.

2. Dr. G. Carmichael Low will show :—
   (*a*) A series of skins of Redshanks and Dunlins, in winter plumage, from Stromness, Orkney Islands, and will make some remarks upon the races occurring there.
   (*b*) A series of skins of the Dowitcher, received from Professor Rowan, of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCCLXVIII.

The three-hundred-and-sixty-third Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, on Wednesday, April 12, 1933.

Chairman : Mr. W. L. Sclater.

Members present :—Capt. B. Acworth ; E. C. Stuart Baker ; F. J. F. Barrington ; S. Boorman ; P. F. Bunyard ; Hon. G. L. Charteris ; W. E. Glegg ; Capt. C. H. B. Grant ; Col. A. E. Hamerton ; Dr. J. M. Harrison ; Dr. K. Jordan ; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain ; Dr. G. Carmichael Low (*Editor*) ; T. H. McKittrick, jun. ; C. W. Mackworth-Praed (*Hon. Sec. & Treas.*) ; Lt.-Col. H. A. F. Magrath ; Dr. P. H. Manson-Bahr ; G. M. Mathews ; Dr. W. N. May ; Mrs. D. Micholls ; C. Oldham ; C. B. Rickett ; D. Seth-Smith ; Major M. H. Simonds ; Marquess of Tavistock ; Dr. A. Landsborough Thomson ; Miss E. L. Turner.

Guests :—J. E. Hunter ; G. N. May ; A. Micholls ; Dr. Porter Phillips ; Mrs. W. L. Sclater ; Dr. D. W. Seth-Smith ; E. G. Simonds ; G. Webster.

Mr. Jack Vincent gave a lecture, illustrated with lantern-slides, on his journeys during the course of the recent British Museum Expedition to Portuguese East Africa, etc. He sent the following account of this for publication :—

I do not propose to submit a detailed description of my wanderings and experiences whilst engaged upon the Portuguese East African Expedition as fully as it was given in my lecture. The reason for this is that the story of the journey as a whole is intended to form part of the introduction to my

paper which will be published in 'The Ibis,' and which will be in the nature of a complete list of the birds of northern Mozambique, with field-observations attached. It was not considered desirable for the itinerary to be duplicated in the 'Bulletin' of the B. O. C., and here, as in the lecture itself, time and space do not permit me to describe the birds themselves.

To give a brief summary of the lecture, it was explained that the Colony of Mozambique was one of the few corners of Southern Africa remaining somewhat of a *terra incognita* to the naturalist, and I was fortunate enough to be asked to make the exploration when, in the summer of 1931, it was made possible for the British Museum to carry out a preliminary survey of that country.

The object of the expedition was to map out the avifaunal distribution of the area, with the idea of finding some demarcation between southern and eastern African bird-forms, for which the Zambezi River has long been considered sufficiently accurate; also to find what distributional affinity was in existence between the high forested "island" mountains.

That a very great deal has been added to our knowledge of the habits and distribution of the birds of the area will be proved in the subsequent 'Ibis' paper, and that many forms new to science were obtained has been shown by the descriptions appearing in this and the previous number of the 'Bulletin.'

In view of the fact that a certain amount of collecting had been carried out in former years in the southern portion of the Colony, my investigations were devoted to that half of the territory to the north of the Zambezi. My endeavours were not confined to the mere amassing of birds' skins, for just as much importance was attached to the study of the birds' habits, and copious field-notes were made upon them.

Journeying from England *via* Cape Town, the first call was made at Lourenço Marques, for the purpose of paying my respects to the Portuguese Governor-General and in order to obtain the permits necessary for collecting in the country. From Beira a journey by the Trans-Zambezia Railway was

made to Blantyre in Nyasaland, which had been decided upon as a base for operations, both because of its facilities for the dispatch of collections from time to time and its convenient position for journeys to be made in several directions into Portuguese territory. The use of native porters on safari, by which method it was originally intended that the expedition should be carried out, was soon found to be impracticable, and the use of a motor-lorry was obtained. This ultimately proved to be the most satisfactory means of transportation, enabling a great deal more country to be investigated than would otherwise have been possible. The personnel of the expedition consisted of myself and five permanent native servants, all carried on a grossly overloaded Ford truck.

The general idea was to collect north and south of the "island" mountain chain running east by north from Mlanje, in Southern Nyasaland, with its centre on about latitude 15° S., which was at first thought, and later proved, to be the demarcation sought for.

After an exploration of the high plateaux at 6300 ft. on the 10,000 ft. Mlanje Mountain, where some additions were made to the observations of Sir Charles Belcher in 1925, the first trip into Portuguese territory was in the province of Quelimane, south-eastwards to Mocuba and north to the base of the Namuli Mountains, this occupying the months of January and February. The heavy rainfall at this period proved very formidable; nevertheless some interesting birds were secured, notably the rare *Cinnyris shelleyi*, *Anomalospiza imberbis*, the new race *Ploceus aureoflavus pallidiceps*, and the new *Cisticola* described on a later page.

Many species of big game were very common on this trip, as indeed they were throughout the greater portion of Mozambique Colony, and I have made some remarks concerning the extraordinary prevalence of man-eating lions. Some customs of interest found among the natives of the districts traversed have also been noted.

The second portion of the expedition was carried out in the Tete Province of Portuguese East Africa, west of Southern Nyasaland, in order to discover what distributional affinity

was in existence between the birds east and west of the Shiré River valley, which marks this section of the Great Rift.

A journey to Dedza was first made, and some collecting was carried out on Dedza Mountain at 7000 ft. Thence the Portuguese frontier was crossed, and camps were held in the open country of the Angoni highlands, a district unique in the central plateau of Portuguese East Africa, which is otherwise clothed in a monotony of *Brachystegia* woodland or open forest. In these plains examples of *Paludipasser* near *locustella* were obtained, belonging to a genus which no doubt is incorrectly named, since, in the field, the bird proves itself to be a true *Ortygospiza*. From this open country the journey was continued down to the Zambezi River at Tete, and at one point on this route a good series of *Ploceus olivaceiceps* was secured, a Weaver which has not been recorded since the original type was collected towards the end of the last century. The roads on this section were unutterably bad, and the gradients on many hills were so steep as to often necessitate a complete unloading of the lorry. Camps in the low country of the Zambezi in the Tete area provided some of the hottest weather experienced during the year, and some unusually severe tsetse-fly belts were met with before a return to Blantyre was made along the route of the main Salisbury–Nyasaland road. At Zobué, on the Kirk Mountains, and close to the British frontier, a profitable camp produced the new species of Honey-Guide (*Indicator appelator*) and two new races, one of *Hyliota australis* and the other of *Fringillaria capensis*, a Bunting hitherto known only from the Union of South Africa. The latter was described by Dr. P. R. Lowe, who was kind enough to name it after me (Bull. B. O. C. lii. 1932, pp. 144–145).

Leaving Blantyre for the third time, a certain amount of collecting was carried out at Lake Chilwa, at Fort Johnston, and on Mangoche Mountain before commencing an extended journey into the enormous stretch of little-known country between Lake Nyasa and the coast. Camps were held at various points, such as Lake Amaramba, Maléma, and Ribaue and, late in May, Mossuril was reached, on the mainland opposite the island capital of Mozambique. There

important desiderata were obtained in the form of *Cisticola chiniana* in winter plumage, these birds being found in the short thorn-scrub and stunted baobab country of the coastal belt, and, before proceeding northwards, a visit was paid to the Governor of the Province, on the island which lies some seven miles off the shore.

The next halting-place was in the coastal jungle near Netia, where series of many rare and unknown birds were obtained, including the new races of *Phyllastrephus flavostriatus* and *Erythrocercus livingstonei*. The biggest drawback at this point was the water-supply, for, although it had been a serious question at many other camps, here we were unable to find streams which were not unpleasantly brackish.

Having completed a representation of the birds of this area, we continued northwards to the Lurio River at Namapa, where something in the nature of a "reign of terror" was being experienced by the inhabitants from the depredations of man-eating lions, and again a valuable collection of many new birds was made, including a long series of each of the new *Fringillaria* and *Cisticola* secured earlier in the year in the country to the southward.

There was no possible means of crossing the Lurio River hereabouts, but the configuration of the country between this point and the Tanganyika border proved that it was unnecessary for us to proceed further to the north.

Another long camp was made, in a locality teeming with game, near the mouth of the River Lurio, where the new species *Heliolais castanopsis* was obtained, before returning along the coast over some very inferior tracks, where the lorry more than once met with a considerable amount of grief in traversing flimsily-built bridges.

From the vicinity of Mozambique once more we turned westwards towards the Namuli massif, having determined upon a detailed exploration of those mountains, whose main peak forms the highest mountain in the Colony. During my talk on "A Day in the Life of a Field-collector" last month, at the Combined Dinner of the B. O. C. and the B. O. U., I described our most unpleasant night of adventure with lions, which took place on this journey from the coast to Namuli.